

**SECTION 502 –  
ASPHALTIC CONCRETE PAVEMENT SMOOTHNESS**

**502.01 -- General**

1. This specification establishes a standard for asphaltic concrete pavement smoothness and defines defective pavement smoothness. It is the intent that the asphaltic concrete pavement placement operation produce a finished driving lane surface with a profile index no greater than 7 in/mi.

2. Pavement smoothness will be evaluated as prescribed in this Section when the pay item "Asphalt Pavement Smoothness Testing" is included in the contract.

3. Bridge approach sections that are a part of the paving contract shall be tested for smoothness.

**502.02 -- Equipment**

1. The Contractor shall furnish a California profilograph that has been approved by the NDR Materials and Tests Division. The equipment furnished shall be supported on multiple wheels having no common axle. The wheels shall be arranged in a staggered pattern such that no 2 wheels cross any bump at the same time. The pavement profile shall be recorded from the vertical movement of a sensing wheel attached to the frame at its mid-point and where movement is in reference to the mean elevation of the 12 road surface contact points established by the support wheels. The profile is referenced to the mean elevation of the 12 road surface contact points. The profilogram shall be recorded with a scale of 1 inch equals 1 inch vertically and 1 inch equals 300 inches (25 feet) longitudinally.

2. All profilographs shall be equipped with computers that automatically record, analyze, and report the profile test data.

**502.03 -- Profilograph Calibration**

1. All profilographs shall be calibrated annually on a test section established by the Department. The Contractor's calibration profile index shall not vary more than 1.0 in/mi. from a standard profile index produced by a Department profilograph.

2. The Contractor shall furnish evidence that the profilograph was calibrated and the profile data was gathered by a certified operator. An operator may be certified by presenting certification from another state highway agency or by successfully completing a certification workshop conducted by the Department.

3. Longitudinal calibration will consist of propelling the profilograph over a pre-measured test distance and determining the scale factor by dividing the pre-measured test distance by the length of the paper in inches. This factor shall be 25 (1 inch equals 25 feet). If not, the machine shall be adjusted until the scale factor is  $25 \pm 0.2$  percent.

4. Vertical calibration will consist of sliding a pre-measured calibration block, measured to the nearest 0.010 inch, under the sensing wheel while the profilograph is stationary. The measurement of the vertical trace line from the base line to the peak and return shall be the same as the calibration block. The trace line must return to the base line. Tolerances will be:

0.04 inch for the 1 inch calibration block
0.08 inch for the 2 inch calibration block

5. The automatic profile trace reduction capabilities shall be checked by comparing the machine's results with the results obtained with the NDR computerized profilograph. The results and the profilogram shall be submitted to the Engineer. The results of the comparison may not differ by more than 1.0 in/mi.

#### **502.04 -- Profilograph Test Procedures**

1. a. Testing shall be done by a certified operator in the presence of the Engineer. If the Engineer is notified of a proposed test by the Contractor and elects not to be present, then the Contractor may, with the Engineer's approval, proceed unaccompanied.

b. The operator and the Engineer shall sign and date the traces immediately after tests are completed.

2. All testing will be done by the Contractor. The California type profilograph shall produce a profilogram (profile trace) of the surface tested.

3. a. Smoothness will be tested on the top layer after completion of finish rolling.

b. The Contractor will make every reasonable effort to provide initial test results to the Engineer within 2 NDR work days after placement.

c. Additional testing should be completed and provided to the Engineer as soon as possible, but not later than 7 calendar days after completion of the mainline pavement.

d. Surface profile correction testing shall be completed and provided to the Engineer within 2 NDR work days after completion of the corrective work.

4. a. Testing will be done in the right-hand wheel path of all driving lanes, including climbing and fly-by lanes.

b. In urban areas where inlet blockouts are in the right-hand wheel path, testing will be done in the center of the lane.

5. Additional rolling required to obtain density after finish rolling will not be cause for retesting.

6. All objects and foreign material on the pavement surface shall be removed by the Contractor before testing.

7. The profilograph shall be propelled at walking speed along the specified wheel path of each travel lane. Propulsion may be provided by personnel pushing manually or by a suitable propulsion unit.

8. A location indicator for lateral placement is mandatory. More than one person may be required to hold the back end of the profilograph exactly on the required path on horizontal curves.

9. Propelling speed shall be decreased if significant spikes are being produced.

10. Before testing, the Contractor shall lower the sensing wheel to the pavement surface and propel the profilograph forward to the beginning location of the test section to stabilize the measurement system. The Contractor shall also check and adjust the sensing wheel tire pressure several times daily.

11. a. Stationing shall be noted on the profilogram at least every 200 feet.

b. Station referencing is used to accurately locate vertical deviations greater than 0.4 inch.

c. All station references used on the profilograms and report forms shall be the actual project stationing.

d. The Contractor shall mark pavement that is to be ground to meet smoothness criteria.

12. Both ends of the profilogram shall be labeled with the:

a. Project number.

b. Test date.

c. Traffic direction.

d. Traffic lane.

e. Test direction.

f. Test path.

g. Test number.

h. Operator's name.

i. Stationing.

j. Lane designation.

k. Position of the pavement.

l. Direction the pavement was placed.

13. A report form furnished by the Engineer shall be completed and placed with the profilogram.

14. When the profilograph is being operated, all wheels shall be on the new pavement for which the Contractor is responsible.

15. The profilograms shall be signed by the Engineer immediately after completion of the tests. If the Engineer was not present, then the absence shall be noted on the profilogram.

16. The Engineer may also test the surface for comparison and assurance purposes. If these tests indicate the Contractor-furnished profilograms are not accurate, the Engineer may:

a. Require the Contractor to recalibrate the profilograph equipment and reaccomplish the tests.

b. (1) Choose to perform the test for a portion or for the entire length of the project.

(2) The Contractor will be charged \$500.00 per lane-mile for all testing done by the Engineer because of verified inaccuracies in the Contractor-furnished profilograms.

(3) Furnishing inaccurate test results may result in disapproval of the Contractor's operator or equipment.

17. Unless otherwise specified in the special provisions, the following areas of pavement will not be evaluated for smoothness:

a. Pavement on horizontal curves having a centerline radius of curvature of less than 1,000 feet and pavement within the superelevation transition of such curves.

b. Pavement within 50 feet of a transverse joint that separates the pavement from an approach slab to a bridge deck or an existing pavement not constructed under the contract.

c. Pavement for exit ramp termini, truck weigh stations, and ramps and connectors with steep grades and high rates of superelevation.

d. Isolated sections less than 0.1 mile long (e.g., between 2 bridges).

e. Pavement within 50 feet of railroad crossings and associated transitions.

f. Additional exceptions shown on the summary sheet in the plans.

18. Pavement sections which are excluded from this specification will be measured for bumps with either a profilograph or a 10 foot straightedge. If a 10 foot straightedge is used, the variation of the surface shall not exceed 0.16 inch.

19. The pavement surface will be divided into lane width increments which end at a bridge, railroad crossing, or other designated termini. The lane increments will be divided into 0.1 mile test sections in the direction tested with the remaining short pieces also considered as test sections.

20. If a "short" section is less than 0.05 mile long, it will be added to the preceding section and a profile index will be calculated for the adjusted length. Sections which are 0.05 mile or longer will be considered full sections.

#### **502.05 -- Evaluation**

1. A profile index will be calculated by the Contractor and furnished within 2 NDR work days to the Engineer along with the profile trace for each section. The index is calculated by summing the vertical deviations outside a 0.2 inch blanking band. The units of this measurement are inches per mile.

2. Bumps will be separately identified. These appear as high points on the profile trace and correspond to high points or bumps on the pavement surface. They are identified by locating vertical deviations exceeding 0.4 inch in height for a 25 foot span as shown on the profile trace.

3. When surface correction is required, the original profilogram results will be considered a preliminary profile index.

**502.06 -- Pavement Surface Correction**

1. All corrective work shall be done with the approval and in the presence of the Engineer.

2. When the profile index of a section is 10 in/mi or less, no corrective action for incentive pay will be allowed except bump removal.

3. a. When the profile index of a section exceeds 10 in/mi, the Contractor shall take corrective action to reduce the profile index to 10 in/mi or less. Any corrective work shall be at no additional cost to the Department.

b. Dense graded surfaces shall be corrected by removing and replacing or by grinding with a machine equipped with many diamond blades with spacers.

c. Open graded surfaces, such as those constructed with Type 3 asphaltic concrete, shall be corrected by removing and replacing.

d. The reuse of the removed material will be determined by the Engineer.

4. a. When the profile of a pavement placed under this contract is corrected by removal and replacement, the replacement material and construction shall be furnished by the Contractor, at no additional cost to the Department, and shall meet the original specifications for the material removed

b. Removal and replacement shall be for the full-lane width for a distance determined by the Engineer.

c. The replacement material shall be tested for smoothness.

5. All bumps will either be corrected or result in a \$500 per bump deduction. Corrective work may be required for any bump, combination of bumps, or other roughness that the Engineer thinks will produce an objectionable ride. Corrected bumps will be considered satisfactory when measurement with the profilograph shows that the bumps are 0.4 inch or less in a 25 foot span.

**502.07 -- Traffic Control**

The Contractor shall, at no additional cost to the Department, furnish all traffic control requirements. This includes devices like barricades.

**502.08 -- Profile Index -- Accepted Quantities**

1. The payment for the top layer of the driving lane asphalt cement and asphaltic concrete that meets the mix design and the plan thickness will be adjusted according to the following schedule and payment criteria. Adjustments are based on 0.1 mile sections measured by the profilograph.

<u>Profile Index Inches Per Lane Mile</u>	<u>Percent of Contract Prices</u>
0 to 2.0 inches	105.0
More than 2.0 to 4.0 inches	102.0
More than 4.0 to 5.0 inches	101.0
More than 5.0 to 7.0 inches	100.0
More than 7.0 to 8.0 inches	98.0
More than 8.0 to 9.0 inches	95.0
More than 9.0 to 10.0 inches	90.0
More than 10.0 inches	Corrective work required

2. a. If the initial profile index is 10.0 in/mi or less and bump removal is required, then a second profilogram shall be taken after the bumps are removed. The percent of pay for this Section will be based on the second profilogram subject to the limitations in Paragraph 2.b. of this Subsection.

b. If the initial profile index exceeds 7 in/mi, then, except for total removal and replacement, the maximum percent of pay after bump removal is limited to 100 percent. The percent of pay is based on a second run of the profilogram after bump removal.

3. The work of smoothness testing shall be paid for at the lump sum contract unit price. This price shall be full compensation for all smoothness testing as set forth in this specification.

**502.09 -- Profilograph Pay Factor Calculation**

1. The pay factor for smoothness of the top layer of asphaltic concrete will be determined according to the following formula:

$$PF = \frac{A(1.05) + B(1.02) + C(1.01) + D(1.00) + E(0.98) + F(0.95) + G(0.90)}{A + B + C + D + E + F + G}$$

Where: A = length of pavement with a profile index of 0 to 2.0

B = length of pavement with a profile index greater than 2.0 to 4.0

C = length of pavement with a profile index greater than 4.0 to 5.0

D = length of pavement with a profile index greater than 5.0 to 7.0

E = length of pavement with a profile index greater than 7.0 to 8.0

F = length of pavement with a profile index greater than 8.0 to 9.0

G = length of pavement with a profile index greater than 9.0 to 10.0